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Agenda item 118
Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations

Letter dated 9 October 1998 from the Acting President of the General Assembly addressed to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith for appropriate action by the Fifth Committee a letter dated 8 October 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the United Nations, which contains a request for an exception to the application of Article 19 of the Charter of the United Nations (see annex).

(*Signed*) Percy Metsing **Mangoaela**
Acting President

98-30027 (E) 091098

Annex

Letter dated 8 October 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

Bosnia and Herzegovina, now for the second year, has lost its right to vote in the General Assembly due to a lack of funds to pay its dues. As it is for all countries, our ability to participate in the major decisions of the General Assembly as an active member of the United Nations family is most important. However, in view of the attempts by some to subdue our sovereignty and territorial integrity during the recent war, it is even more important that Bosnia and Herzegovina be able to fully participate in providing confidence to our population regarding the country's political health. In essence, our immediate full participation in this session of the General Assembly is essential to peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina and is an integral part of the peace process.

Bosnia and Herzegovina is in arrears under the terms of Article 19 of the Charter of the United Nations, in the amount of US$ 1,081,100, and this amount soon will increase. Bosnia and Herzegovina is currently in arrears in an amount in excess of US$ 10 million to all major multilateral institutions.

The lack of funding necessary to pay such dues, can be attributed, in short, to the devastating conditions left by the war, an emphasis on rebuilding, caring for war invalids, and other social costs of the consequences of the war, and the large number of refugees and displaced persons. Needless to say, we can continue with this long list of needs and inflicted injuries.

Finally, for easy reference, Article 19 of the Charter of the United Nations reads:

> "A Member of the United Nations which is in arrears in the payment of its financial contributions to the Organization shall have no vote in the General Assembly if the amount of its arrears equals or exceeds the amount of the contributions due from it for the proceeding two full years. *The General Assembly may, nevertheless, permit such a Member to vote if it is satisfied that the failure to pay is due to conditions beyond the control of the Member*" (emphasis added).

(*Signed*) Muhamed **Sacirbey**
Ambassador and Permanent Representative
of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the United Nations